

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Romi Bose on December 2, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 9-20 are hereby cancelled.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for cleaning a coffee grinding machine having one or more burrs soiled with oils and grinding residue, comprising:

apportioning a predetermined amount of a cleaning material, wherein the cleaning material is in the form of a tablet of a predetermined size and shape, wherein the shape and size of the tablet corresponds to the shape and size of materials specified to be ground by the grinder ~~shaped and sized to resemble a coffee bean~~ and differs from the material that caused the soiling of the burrs and wherein the amount of cleaning material apportioned is sufficient to clean the soiled burr by removing the oils and residue without impacting the flavor of any material subsequently being inserted into the grinding machine;

inserting the cleaning material into the grinding machine;

grinding the cleaning material using the one or more soiled burrs of the grinder, wherein during the grinding procedure the cleaning material dislodges the soil from the one or more soiled burrs; and

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purging the ground cleaning material and the soil from the grinder without the use of liquid.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The cleaning method of claim 15, further comprising a binding agent.

On page 1 of the specification,

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage entry of International Application No. PCT/US2005/012636, filed April 13, 2005, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/601,751, filed August 14, 2004, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/562,868, filed April 16, 2004. -- has been inserted before "Field of the Invention".

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Levin (Tea & Coffee Trade Journal), Ford (U.S. Patent 5,865,383), and McGraw (Mrs. Fixit).

Levin teaches one can clean their coffee grinder after grinding strong flavored coffees by grinding a non-descript regular coffee. Levin implicitly teaches cleaning a grinding machine having one or soiled burrs [because it grinds the coffee] by apportioning a predetermined amount of non-descript regular coffee to be inserted into the grinding machine to be ground in order to remove the stronger flavored coffee residues. Levin inherently teaches that the grinder is soiled

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with oils and grinding residue because it grinds coffee with inherently contains oil and the coffee residue will remain on the grinder. Levin does not explicitly teach purging the ground cleaning material and soil from the grinder, but it is notoriously well known in the art of grinding coffee that one must remove the ground product from the machine as taught by '383. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to purge the ground cleaning material as taught by '383 in the method of Levin because '383 discloses that ground coffee exits the machine.

Levin and '383 do not teach that the cleaning material differs from the material that caused the soiling of the burrs. However, McGraw teaches that coffee grinders can be cleaned using rice which makes the cleaning material different from that ground by the grinder. The claimed invention requires that the size and shape of the tablet corresponds to the shape and size of materials specified to be ground by the coffee grinding machine. After reconsidering the art applied as well as applicant's arguments, rice is not the size and shape that corresponds to the shape and size of the materials specified to be ground by the grinder. Applicant's state that rice is relatively small relative to coffee beans and is susceptible to falling between the burrs of the grinder and remaining there, and as additional rice is used in subsequent cleanings, rice continues to accumulate. This can result in the prevention of the burrs from rotating in order to grind coffee as well as the possibility of burning out the motor. By using the tablet the size and shape of the tablet corresponds to the shape and size of materials specified to be ground by the grinder, the tablet is ground up which keeps the grinder in working condition and prevent motor burn out. Therefore, McGraw is no longer appropriate prior art.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICOLE BLAN whose telephone number is (571)270-1838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-5 and alternating Fridays 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Kornakov can be reached on 571-272-1303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicole Blan/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1714

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/Michael Barr/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1711